International Olympic Committee will not be eligible for Arjuna Award.

(iv) Maximum Number of Awardees has been fixed at 15 in any calendar year.

(v) The prize money has been increased from Rs. 1.50 lakhs to Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) While finalizing the Scheme, the selection procedures followed by several Indian National Awards, were taken into account. No international models on sporting awards were taken into consideration. This Schemes has been devised keeping in view the Indian sports standards; as such no comparison can be drawn with international awards.

New Award Scheme for Sports

† 4070. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to institute any award, other than the Arjuna Award, for life-long contribution in sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when such new award would be instituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is proposing to introduce a scheme titled "Dhyan Chand Award" for life time achievement in sports. As the scheme is in draft stage, it is not possible to indicate the details at this stage.

(c) The scheme is expected to be instituted in the current financial year.

Cricket ties with Pakistan

4071. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to revive cricket ties with Pakistan, as a first step to improve relations with that country, as suggested, of late, by Pakistan President;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,